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XIII. *Account of a new Plant of the Gastromycous Order of Fungi.* By J. E. Bowman, Esq., F.L.S.

*Read February 19, 1828.*

I BEG leave to offer to the Linnean Society the following account of a minute but very interesting individual of the Gastromycous tribe of Fungi, recently detected by me in this neighbourhood. Though it does not appear to have been hitherto noticed by botanists, it is not improbable that it may sometimes occur in similar favourable situations. Its extreme minuteness and general resemblance to others of the same natural family, easily accounts for its having been overlooked altogether, or confounded with them. The peculiar elegance of its mature form, were it of sufficient size to meet the common eye, could not fail to arrest the attention of the most indifferent. As it is, specimens can be discovered only by the patient explorers of their shaded and secluded haunts: for so ephemeral is their duration, and their texture so perishable, that but few of them can be preserved for future examination. On this account, I regret that I am unable to present any specimens to the Society of the individual in question; but the accompanying plate exhibiting its different stages may be relied on as correct.

Its height scarcely exceeds half a line, and its colour differs little from the decaying wood on which it grows. *Tab. 16. f. a.* represents its natural size both in its early and mature states, but the rest of the figures are all highly magnified. It requires

a good lens to distinguish its general structure ; and the insertion of the filaments into the under surface of the pileus, on which I have founded its generic name (*ενεργεῖ ab infra*, and *νημα filamentum*,) can only be discovered by the compound microscope.

Class and Order. CRYPTOGAMIA FUNGI.

Natural Order. GASTROMYCI. *Link, Greville.* GASTEROMYCETES. *Fries.*

ENERTHENEMA ELEGANS.

TAB. XVI.

*Gen. Char.* *Peridium* subglobatum, pellucidum, lacteo-albidum, stipite perforante, pileo terminali, filamentis ab infra sursum cirratis.

*Spec. Char.* *Sporangium* imprimis sessile, globosum, deinde stipitatum ; stipite infrà cylindraceo, supernè conico, postremò peridio rimoso, evanescente. Crescit gregatim in sylvis opacis apud quercûs ramos decorticatos.

In its earliest stage the capsule or sporangium is globular and stemless, gelatinous, white, and semitransparent (*Tab. 16. f. b.*) like its kindred genera *Trichia*, *Stemonytis*, *Arscyria*, &c. It soon acquires a stem, and the head becomes sphæroidal, the stipes passing through its shorter axis, and having a small circular and rather depressed spot on its apex, which may be termed a pileus or cap (*fig. c, d, &c.*). This pileus hardens, and changes its colour to a dark brown, while the sporangium is still soft and diaphanous ; and if the latter be examined in this stage of its growth by a good microscope in a strong light, very slender brown and waved filaments may be seen imbedded within its substance, radiating round the pileus (*fig. c.*). The sporangium afterwards appears coagulated and opaque, though still white ;  
the



b



c



d



e



f



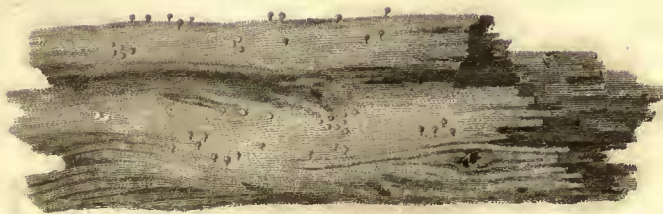
g



h



i



a

